

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claim 15 was previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1-14 and 16-22 are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 17-19 are amended. Claims 1 and 17 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Request for Reconsideration / Reasons for Entry of Amendments

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Examiner Interview

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicant's Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caprai (U.S. Patent 6,251,015) in view of Ritchie (U.S. Patent 4,637,605); and

claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caprai and Ritchie, and further in view of Pittarelli (U.S. Patent 3,964,564).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, each of independent claims 1 and 17 has been amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including *inter alia*

“wherein said elongate steering handle is disposed rearwardly of the rear-most part of the body.”

In contrast to the inventions of claims 1 and 17, the Caprai handle bar 60 is mounted above a forward part of the control unit 12, and the elongate handle bar of Ritchie extends in a later direction above control unit 3.

At least for the reasons described above, no combination of Caprai and Ritchie can teach or suggest the combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 17. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 18, and 19 have been amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

For example, each of dependent claims 18 and 19 recites

“a forward end of the centrally located main frame disposed farthest away from the operator is connected to a cross frame bridging between forward ends of the sub-frames, wherein a front face of the control unit faces a rear side of the cross frame.”

Caprai fails to teach a cross frame. As for Ritchie, the front face of video game (control unit) 3 certainly does not face a rear face of any part of the exercise bike 5.

Thus, dependent claims 18 and 19 contain allowable subject matter.

All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

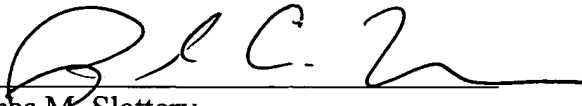
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: May 21, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000